

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated December 13, 2004 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-20 are pending. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended as indicated in this response. Claims 1-20 have been indicated as having allowable subject matter, subject to correction of informalities in Claims 1 and 16, for which the Applicants thank the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim 1 has been objected to as containing an informality, in that the phrase "the first clock signal at the output terminal" in line 8 should read "a first clock signal at the output terminal." Applicants have made the required correction.

Claim 16 has been objected to as containing an informality, in that the phrase "the first clock signal at the output terminal" in line 31 should read "a first clock signal at the output terminal" and that, on Page 22, line 3, the phrase "the second clock signal at the output terminal" should read "a second clock signal at the output terminal. Applicants have made the required corrections.

Applicants contend that the rationale underlying these amendments bears no more than a tangential relation to any equivalence in question because the changes above merely correct a lack of antecedent basis (i.e., substituting "a" for "the") in claims otherwise allowable. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 122 S.Ct. 1831 (2002).

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-20.

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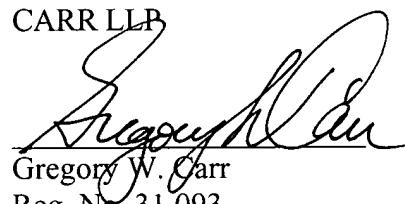
PATENT APPLICATION  
SERIAL NO. 10/645,040

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner require any further clarification to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP

  
Gregory W. Carr  
Reg. No. 31,093

Dated: 2/14/05  
CARR LLP  
670 Founder's Square  
900 Jackson Street  
Dallas, Texas 75202  
Telephone: (214) 760-3030  
Fax: (214) 760-3003